U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-Public Health Service

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## MEDLARS GROWS

The MEDLARS project continues to move along rapidly. The Preliminary Design Phase (I) was completed in January of this year. The contractor, the Information Systems Section of the General Electric Company, is now heavily engaged in the Detailed Design Phase (II). This portion of the project covers the design and engineering of the system outlined by the preliminary study, to the level of detail necessary to bring it to operational reality. During this phase, which will run through next spring, detailed procurement specifications for all equipment will be developed; all major programs for the computer operation will be written, tested, and perfected. A training program will be instituted for the entire present staff complement of the Bibliographic Services Division, and new personnel will be recruited.

A highlight of Phase II is the development of a special output composition device, dubbed GRACE, for Graphic Arts Composing Equipment. GRACE will be fed information outputted by the computer on magnetic tape; it will compose this material, page by page, and produce camera-ready copy for printing. The rate of exposure will be approximately 440 characters per second; multiple fonts, upper and lower case, and proportional spacing will be employed.

The Library's architect has prepared plans for modification of the site to receive the Honeywell-800 computer and for the operation of peripheral mechanical facilities; remodeling will begin in the fall. Phase III, involving the ordering and installation of equipment, will begin in September, overlapping the Phase II effort. The schedule still calls for operational status of the system by fall of 1963.

## JOURNAL TITLE ABBREVIATIONS

When the new Index Medicus appeared in January 1960 one of the features it incorporated was a "new" style of journal title abbreviation. Since this question is one which has

been heatedly debated for years in library circles, the National Library of Medicine staff waited with some trepidation for a barrage of comments from colleagues in the field. The barrage never came.

Now there appears in the current issue of the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association an article by Dr. Rogers and Mrs. Charen of NLM, explaining the new practice in detail, and setting forth extensive comparisons between the systems of Chemical Abstracts, the old QCIM, World Medical Periodicals, World List, the old Index-Catalogue, and the Index Medicus. The article includes an historical review of developments, the present set of rules employed at NLM, and a list of abbreviations for frequently-occurring words. The reaction - any reaction - is awaited.

## AWARDS

At the end of June the annual awards ceremony for NLM staff members was held. A certificate and lapel button in recognition of over thirty years of Federal service was presented to Mr. Richard F. Clanton. Certificates in recognition of twenty years of Federal service were given to Mrs. Gertrude M. Butler, Mr. John M. Olive, Mr. Charles A. Roos. There were eight awards for ten years of service.

Cash awards for outstanding and special services were presented to six employees. Four of these awards were in connection with extraordinary excellence of performance in planning and carrying out the move to the new building; they were given to Mr. William H. Kurth, Mr. Joseph McGroarty, Mr. John M. Olive, and Mrs. Lorena M. Sadtler.

Mr. Walter Templemon, now employed at the Goddard Space Flight Center, received a cash award for his suggestion for modifying shelving and reshelving procedures, effecting an improvement in efficiency of the interlibrary loan operation. Mrs. Lela M. Spanier of the Technical Services Division received an award for her outstanding service as editor of the recently published Biomedical Serials, 1950-1960.

## UNESCO SURVEY

The United Nations Economic and Social Council has issued, as its document E/3618, 24 April 1962, a 264-page work from UNESCO entitled Coordination of the results of scientific research; survey on the organization and functioning of abstracting services in the various branches of science and technology. The report discusses primary publications, types of abstracts, types of abstracting services, surveys of secondary publications by subject field and by language, mechanization, translation, standardization, and copyright.

## GROWTH OF COLLECTIONS

| | CURRENT YEAR | | | COLLECTION TOTALS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Added | Withdrawn | Net Gain | 30 June 1961 | 30 June 1962 |
| BOOK MATERIAL | | | | | |
| 1.Bound monographs | | | | | |
| a. HMD | 188 | 13 | 175 | 34,110 | 34,285 |
| b. 1801-1913 | 87 | 770 | -683 | 89,597 | 88,914 |
| c. 1914- | 9,883 | 717 | 9,166 | 155,199 | 164,365 |
| Subtotal | 10,158 | 1,500 | 8,658 | 278,906 | 287,564 |
| 2.Bound serials | 4,681 | 7 | 4,674 | 266,199 | 270,873 |
| Total Bound Volumes (1-2) | 14,839 | 1,507 | 13,332 | 545,105 | 558,437 |
| 3.Theses | 876 | - | 876 | 284,006 | 284,882 |
| 4.Pamphlets | 2,796 | - | 2,796 | 163,113* | 165,909 |
| Subtotal(3-4) | 3,672 | - | 3,672 | 447,119* | 450,791 |
| Total Book Material | 18,511 | 1,507 | 17,004 | 992,224* | 1,009,228 |
| NON-BOOK MATERIAL | | | | | |
| 1.Microfilms | 208 | - | 208 | 2,315 | 2,523 |
| 2.Portraits and Pictures | 472 | 1 | 471 | 57,034 | 57,505 |
| Total Non-Book Material | 680 | 1 | 679 | 59,349 | 60,028 |
| BOUND VOLUME EQUIVALENTS** | - | - | - | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 19,191 | 1,508 | 17,683 | 1,066,573* | 1,084,256 |

*Adjusted to include 505 pamphlets added in FY 1961 and not previously counted
**Material in pipeline

## MR. KURTH TO UCLA

Mr. William H. Kurth left the National Library of Medicine staff in August to take up his new duties as Latin American Bibliographer at the University of California in Los Angeles. Mr. Kurth came to NLM from the Library of Congress in 1959 and was in charge of organizing the various book-custody operations of the Library into a coherent whole. It was largely through his careful logistical planning that the movement of the NLM collections to the new building was outstandingly successful and efficient.

## NLM ORGANIZATIONAL REALIGNMENTS

In the History of Medicine Division all sectional subdivisions (catalog, reference, art) have been abolished, and the Division will operate without formal sectional organization. The former Art Section has been designated the NLM Prints and Photographs Collection.

In the Reference Services Division the Circulation Section has been abolished and its three units have become separate sections of the Division. There are now four sections in this Division, designated the Reference, Loan and Stack, Photoduplication, and Preservation Sections. Mr. Edward A. Miller, formerly Head of the Circulation Section, has been named Deputy Chief of the Reference Services Division.

In the Bibliographic Services Division the Processing Section has been abolished and the Data Processing Section has been established in its place; Mr. Charles L. Austin reports for duty this month as head of the new section. The Data Processing Section is subdivided into the Input Unit and the Programming Unit. The new alignment is necessitated by development of the MEDLARS project, although the MEDLARS system will not become operational until the latter part of 1963.

## SUMMER HOURS

Service to readers at the National Library of Medicine in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons has been discontinued for the months of July and August. Beginning on Monday, July 2, and ending Saturday, September 1, the Library is open to the public each day, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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